

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-15 were previously pending in the application.

Claims 1-15 are canceled and replaced with new claims 16-30.

The new claims are believed patentable over the art of record in the parent application at least for the following reasons:

DAVIES 6,247,019, of record in the parent application at column 9, lines 18-25 teach "An attribute is a characteristic of a topological feature that includes a measurement or value for the feature. Examples of attributes include a feature identifier, an ordered list of coordinates, visibility level, a line weight and a color."

Applicant believes that DAVIES definition of an attribute differs from claims 16-30 of the present application in that the DAVIES attributes are only characteristics attached to a specific object. Specifically, the DAVIES definition teaches a feature identifier, an ordered list of coordinates, visibility level, a line weight and a color.

The attributes of claims 16-30 of the present application allow to distinguish objects of a same given family according to the semantic of each object, which corresponds to the qualitative, quantitative, physics or abstract properties.

Contrary to DAVIES, topological characteristics are treated separately in a topological table containing a sequence of elementary families for objects having identical attributes.

Page 7, line 27 of the present specification discloses that "an attribute is a characteristic or property of an object. The attribute can be semantic or formal. A semantic attribute of an object can be qualitative, either be physic (for a glass front) or abstract (for a toll road), or quantitative, (for a bridge with a 100m span). A formal attribute is an aspect and visual representation attribute of the object: a bright organic tissue, a red lining, a discontinuous or dashed line, ...."

The implementation of two completely distinct tables (topological table and attributes table), contributing to a simplification of storage and topological data processing, each table comprising a specific structure, is neither described nor suggested in DAVIES. On the contrary, the attribute of DAVIES is not physically separated from information of position, since it is clearly described and claimed, "object-based database comprising a geometrical objects representing topological features, geometrical object comprising a region identifier attribute and a geometry attribute defining the geometry of a complete representation of a topological feature."

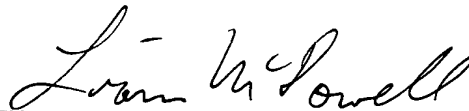
Accordingly, an early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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